

# OrdnanceReports

News updates from around the world



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*This publication is produced by the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps Communications Coordinator. The purpose of this publication is to provide Command Information materiel concerning world events and the U.S. military's role in those events. Ordnance specific events will be covered if appropriate. Direct your correspondence to Ed Starnes at 410-278-2415 (DSN 298-2415), or email [edward.starnes@ocs.apg.army.mil](mailto:edward.starnes@ocs.apg.army.mil).*

## EOD blasts largest cache in KAF region

By Spc. Jim Wagner  
109th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – The largest cache of rockets, mortars and small arms ammunition in the local region here was destroyed June 20-21 by explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) technicians.

It took EOD two days and five separate blasts to destroy the 25,000-pound cache found in the Tarnak Farm region, once the famous training site of Al-Qaida terrorists. In all, members of the 731st and 704th Ordnance Companies (EOD) found 1,801 107mm rockets, 36 120mm mortars and 85,640 rounds of small arms (30mm or less) ammunition.



*Rockets and mortars are detonated two kilometers outside Kandahar Air Field Saturday in what is the largest cache find in the local region, according to EOD officials. U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jim Wagner*

The munitions were located – following on a tip from the 313th Military Intelligence Battalion – at the bottom of a swimming pool completely covered with dirt.

The process of destroying the munitions took two days and five blast sites because of the size of the haul; each blast could contain only so many pounds of munitions in order to avoid destroying windows at nearby Kandahar Air Field (KAF).

As it was, EOD members had to haul the munitions away from the cache site in trailers to put some distance between the site and KAF. Despite the distance, one blast was still able to put a crack through the window at the air field's air traffic control tower, prompting an angry phone call to EOD.



*An explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) team empties a converted swimming pool of 107mm rockets and small arms ammunition Saturday. The cache held 1,801 107mm rockets and 85,640 small arms rounds, the largest collection found in the Kandahar Air Field region. U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jim Wagner*

Ernest Richter, EOD team leader. "We had a lot of people, trailers and had to move a lot of munitions."

Members of the two EOD companies, with help from U.S. Navy munitions experts and KAF personnel, awoke at 2:30 a.m. each day to beat the sun's sweltering heat while moving the 1,801 rockets. At 10 a.m., the thermometer was already hitting 100 degrees and by the time EOD techs blew up the site in the early afternoon the temperature was hovering at 115 degrees.

Each 107mm rocket, popularly used as improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and ground-mounted rockets to attack coalition fire bases,

"The mission went really well; it was a success," said Staff Sgt.

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## Commentary

# Don't look at progress with western eyes

By U.S. Army Spc. Jim Wagner / 109th Mobile Public Affairs Det.



KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – A couple hundreds yards outside the perimeter, loudspeakers blasting Afghan music permeate the night air. Faintly, the sounds of laughter and shouting come from the compound housing the local Afghan Military Forces there.

For the past three hours I've been stretched out on my cot, tossing and turning and trying to sleep despite the noise. It's now 1 a.m. in the morning and my first thought is, 'man, in the States they'd be getting a visit from the police for partying like this.'

Then, upon reflection, playing loud music – any music for that matter – would have resulted in a lot more than a \$100 fine two years ago in Afghanistan under the Taliban regime. In fact, a ticket would be a blessing in a country that only two years ago ruled with an iron fist.

Laying there I considered how my "Western" eyes looked at everything going on in the country right now, most especially the progress of coalition forces to bring peace and stability to a region that in many ways came to a stop decades ago.

It's easy to look around and say Afghanistan today is exactly the same as it was 100 or even 500 years ago, a living breathing time capsule in the middle of technological and social advances throughout the rest of the world.

Most Afghan cities don't have decent plumbing, electricity or adequate housing. Most women still walk about town in full abaya and won't speak or look at anyone but their husband or immediate family. Most wouldn't even think twice about baring their faces or any part of their body, despite the lifting of that ban by the central

government. Despite their own standing army for the first time since the 1960s, in many remote areas regional commanders still rule over their particular tribe or region.

Progress doesn't seem to have come to the country, despite the time and effort coalition forces have put into stabilizing the region so far. But that measure of progress is seen through the eyes of a Westerner, and doesn't necessarily apply here.

Exactly one hundred years ago, the Wright brothers conducted their first airplane flight. It would be another 17 years before the first commercial radio goes live, 24 years before the first television and 36 years before the first digital computer.

I can remember like it was yesterday when I first saw cable TV and it's whopping 36 channels; my parents remember when they saw the first color TV broadcast; my grandparents remember the first TV; my great-grandparents remember a time before both TV and radio.

More than one-third of the past 100 years in Afghanistan has been spent in constant warfare. When it wasn't civil war, it was the Russian invasion and occupation, or the Taliban rule that drove off or murdered most of the intellectual elite in the country. It's no wonder they are behind the curve when their progress is measured against Western standards of today.

Progress is taking shape in Afghanistan – incrementally, but it's coming. According to many experts true progress will take at least a couple of generations; or about the generational difference between my grandparent's 'talking picture box' in the living room to my MTV.

Outside, the AMF compound has grown quiet and the music has stopped. It's reassuring to know I and all the soldiers, airmen, Marines and sailors here have played a part in making sure progress hasn't also stopped.

*A typical Afghan village lacks many of the amenities Westerners associate with modern life. U.S. Army photo*





# Mayor's office attacked in Iraqi city

by Chris Tomlinson

FALLUJAH, Iraq (AP) - Iraqi insurgents fired a rocket-propelled grenade at the mayor's office in this restive city west of Baghdad - the latest in a series of attacks against people thought to be cooperating with U.S. occupation forces.

Meanwhile, U.S. officials said that Syrian border guards detained during a firefight last week during an operation to hunt down suspected members of Iraq's ousted regime were still in U.S. custody.

U.S. troops shot and killed one of the assailants in the attack on the mayor's office late Monday in Fallujah, a town 35 miles west of Baghdad, U.S. reports said. But local residents at the scene said the man killed was not involved in the attack and was caught in the crossfire.

Insurgents last week began targeting Iraqi civilians thought to be too close to Americans - a new tactic in their campaign to disrupt the U.S.-led occupation.

A U.S. Army Military Police officer was slightly wounded late Monday in Khaldiya, about 35 miles west of Baghdad, when insurgents fired a rocket-propelled grenade which struck a Humvee, said 1st Lt. Charles Mulcahey, a platoon leader with the 115th Military Police company.

## Six British troops killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq (CNN) — Six British soldiers have been killed near Basra in southern Iraq, the UK Ministry of Defence said.

Troops came under fire in two separate incidents near the city of al-Amarah, about 120 miles (200 kilometers) north of Iraq's second city of Basra Tuesday, the Ministry of Defence said in a statement.

In the first attack six soldiers were killed, while in the second a further eight were injured — one in an initial clash and seven others when an RAF Chinook helicopter came in for an attempted rescue, Number 10 Downing Street was quoted by the UK Press Association as saying.

No further details were available on either incident.

It is believed the soldiers in the first attack belonged to the 1st Battalion of the Parachute Regiment, PA added.

An MoD spokeswoman was quoted by The Associated Press as saying: "We had a patrol on the ground that came under fire and a quick reaction force helicopter was sent out to their assistance."

The British deaths were the first since early May, when a soldier was killed in a traffic accident.

British soldiers have been patrolling the southern city of Basra without helmets and flak jackets.

British casualties have been light compared to the U.S. where almost a soldier has been killed everyday since the declared end to the war



*Iraqi men are checked by US soldiers from the 1st Armored Division in Baghdad, Iraq, Monday June 23, 2003. (AP Photo/Saurabh Das)*

An infantry platoon found no suspects or weapons after combing the thick palm scrub alongside highway 10, where the ambush took place.

Insurgents fired two more rocket-propelled grenades at U.S. troops in Habaniyah, about three miles west of Fallujah, but they exploded without causing injuries, reports said.

In Baghdad late Monday, a grenade tossed at a military police Humvee bounced off and exploded underneath a civilian car, injuring two Iraqis, said Army spokesman Capt. John Morgan. No suspects were arrested.

Details continued to emerge Tuesday on a previously undisclosed operation last week around the Iraqi town of Qaim, near the border with Syria.

U.S. special forces shot and captured several Syrian border guards during a firefight that broke out as the Americans attacked a convoy of suspected high-level fugitives linked to Saddam Hussein's government. They were apparently trying to cross into Syria.

An undisclosed number of people were killed and wounded in the incident, and American troops captured about 20 people, most of whom have since been released, a senior defense official said Monday. U.S. investigators will conduct DNA testing to identify the remains of those killed, defense officials said.

In Damascus, there was no immediate reaction from the Syrian government and there was no mention of the Iraqi border shootout in Syrian newspapers, TV or radio - all of which are state-controlled.

A U.S. Embassy spokesperson referred The Associated Press to the Syrian authorities and U.S. Central Command.

"We have made it very clear to senior levels of the Syrian government the importance we attach to its cooperation with our efforts to achieve

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## **EOD blasts largest cache in KAF region continued**

weighs approximately 41 pounds. The crew of roughly 15 people first had to dig out and clear the munitions from the pool, load them into the trailers, transport them, unload them and finally stack them at the blast sites. Each trailer could hold between 40-80 rockets, making for many trips back and forth.

“Your arms are rubber by the end of the second day,” said one volunteer helping with the cache recovery and destruction.

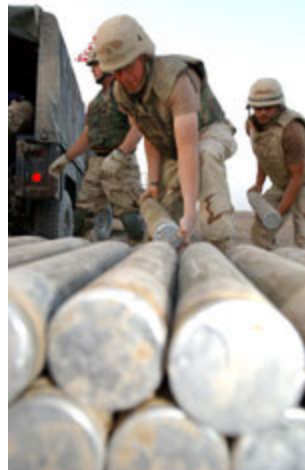
Given how well the munitions were buried, it’s hard for EOD officials to determine just how many more caches many be hidden throughout the Tarnak Farm region, and where they came from before finding a resting place. The munitions came from China, Yugoslavia and Pakistan.

It’s also hard to determine just how long they have already been sitting there.

“There are lot numbers on each (rocket) but unless you know the numbering system used by the country who manufactured the munitions, you can’t get a date,” said Sgt. 1st Class John Peters, 704th Ordnance Company (EOD) response sergeant.



*A U.S. Navy munitions expert hauls a 41-pound 107mm rocket from an old swimming pool used to hide a munitions cache. U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jim Wagner*



*Pfc. William Hamilton, 8th Ordnance Company ammunition handler, stacks 107 mm rockets prior to detonation. U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jim Wagner*

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## **Mayor’s office attacked in Iraqi city continued**

a stable, democratic government in Iraq and the apprehension of senior officials of the former Iraqi regime,” the spokesperson said in Damascus.

Three U.S. senators, in the first visit by elected American officials to Iraq, predicted Monday that a U.S. presence may be required in Iraq for as long as five years.

“I don’t think the American people fully appreciate just how long we are going to be committed here and what the overall cost will be,” said Delaware Senator Joseph Biden, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

U.S. officials announced Monday that the defeated and dissolved

Iraqi army will be re-established within a year. To start, the new army will consist of a token force of one brigade of 12,000 men. It will grow to 40,000 in three years, a tenth of the size of the Saddam Hussein-era military.

The U.S.-led occupation administration will pay a \$50 to \$150 monthly stipend to as many as 250,000 former Iraqi soldiers. Officers of the rank of colonel or higher and senior members of the Baath party would receive nothing, said Walter Slocombe, a senior adviser on security and defense for the governing authority.

Former soldiers from the disbanded army have been mounting increasingly vehement protests, demanding pay.



# Senators, representatives get Stryker update

by Joe Burlas

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, June 23, 2003) — When conditions are just right, the Stryker Infantry Carrier and its variants meet the Army's requirement of being able to be transported 1,000 miles via C-130 aircraft, Army officials recently told members of Congress and their staffers.

Soldiers representing the Army's first Stryker Brigade Combat Team — 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, Wash. — and Transformation efforts from Department of the Army staff briefed members of the Senate and House of Representatives Army Caucuses about the SBCT on Capitol Hill June 19.

Addressing the strategic mobility C-130 requirement which has been questioned by members of the media and of Congress, Maj. Gen. Jim Grazioplene, director of G8's Force Development office, said it depends on a number of variables. Those variables include the time of day the aircraft flies, the type and condition of the airfields the C-130 takes off and lands on, the altitude of both airfields, barometric pressure and prevailing wind conditions.

The Initial Operational Capability evaluation for the Stryker Brigade conducted at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif., and Fort Polk, La., proved that C-130s can move Strykers the required distance, said Brig. Gen. William Brandenburg, deputy commanding general for Training and Readiness at I Corps, Fort Lewis. That evaluation also tested rail, ship and self-movement transportation modes in moving the brigade from Fort Irwin to Fort Polk.

Brandenburg said the IOC evaluation demonstrated that the Stryker vehicle was "quick, quiet and lethal.

The Stryker is more survivable than the M113 Armored Personnel Carrier in that its linked and digitized Army Battlefield Communication System and its internal reconnaissance resources allows soldiers to see and act first, Brandenburg said. Acting Secretary of the Army Les Brownlee told caucus attendees the initial Stryker protection specifications called for its armor to withstand a 7.63-mm round, but it has been improved to provide protection to up to a 14.5-mm round.

For Lt. Col. Rob Choppa, who just left command of the Stryker Brigade's 2nd Battalion to become the brigade's deputy commander, the Stryker allowed his soldiers to arrive on the battlefield in a more rested condition than the M113s he was in charge of as an infantry platoon leader 20 years ago.

"The 113 is a much rougher ride and has a very limited communication package," Choppa said. "It is less lethal and less survivable than the Stryker."

A senate staffer asked the most junior member of the Army delegation, Spc. Paul Coale, 1/23rd Infantry Battalion, 3rd Brigade, to give his opinion of the Stryker. While admitting to having no experience with the M113, Coale said he liked the speed of the Stryker and how quick it gets into action.



*Brig. Gen. William Brandenburg, deputy commanding general of Training and Readiness at I Corps and Fort Lewis, speaks to staffers of various Representatives June 19 at the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington, D.C. Brandenburg also gave his review of the Army's Stryker Brigade Combat Team performance to senators from the Armed Services Committee. Photo by Sgt. Reeba Critser.*

It takes between five and 10 minutes for a Stryker to be offloaded and configured for combat depending on what type of variant it is, Brandenburg said. He compared that to an airdropped High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle which takes 15-20 minutes to derig and prepare.

While the Stryker may be the centerpiece of the Stryker Brigade, there is much more to the brigade, Brandenburg said. He pointed out that the brigade has received more than 70 new pieces of equipment its soldiers had to train on in the past year in addition to exploring new ways of doing business. And the brigade is about growing leaders for the Army's future Objective Force, Brandenburg said.

SBCTs are designed to be an early-entry force that can be quickly deployed with more lethality, mobility and survivability than is available to airborne and other light infantry forces that have traditionally comprised the Army's early-entry force. While not designed to stand up and duke it out with heavy forces in open rolling terrain, Brandenburg said an SBCT would hold its own against heavy forces in more closed terrain such as urban areas. He also said an SBCT can be augmented with armor and heavy infantry units as the mission requires.

Asked about pictures of damaged Strykers that have been circulating the Internet, Brandenburg admitted that four Strykers experienced rollovers during the IOC evaluation — two mortar carriers and two reconnaissance vehicles.

"In each case, they were new variants that the drivers did not have

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# Wolfowitz explains Pentagon strategy changes

by Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, June 23, 2003 — The 9-11 terrorist attacks confirmed for DoD leaders the need for significant changes in U.S. defense strategy to one that would focus on “uncertainty and surprise,” Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz told the House Armed Services Committee June 18.

Those changes he said are needed to respond to future threats to the United States for which he said looked “more and more asymmetrical,” where adversaries seek to win using nontraditional methods.

He noted that the attacks on the Pentagon and World Trade Center were evidence that adversaries would seek to “avoid U.S. strengths by targeting its weaknesses.”

“That attack largely confirmed the strategic direction and planning principles that we had already developed, particularly the emphasis on uncertainty and surprise,” he said. “And it confirmed our focus on preparing for asymmetric threats and on the consequent need to respond with agility in unfamiliar places around the world.”

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## Bush nominates Brown as Special Operations commander

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, June 23, 2003 – President Bush has nominated Army Lt. Gen. Bryan D. Brown for promotion to general and as the next U.S. Special Operations Command commander.

If confirmed by the U.S. Senate, Brown will replace Air Force Gen. Charles R. Holland.

Brown is currently the deputy commander at Special Operations Command. The command is headquartered at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla.

Brown, 54, started his career in 1967 as an infantryman. Upon completion of Airborne School and the Special Forces Qualifications Course, he served on a Special Forces “A Team” in Vietnam. He returned to the United States and attended Officer Candidate School. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in May 1970. Brown returned to Vietnam as a helicopter pilot and held a succession of aviation jobs thereafter.

Brown served in Operation Urgent Fury – the invasion of Grenada – in October 1983 as a member of the Joint Special Operations Command based out of Fort Bragg, N.C.

He also commanded a battalion of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment during Operation Desert Storm in the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

He later commanded the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment. He was the assistant division commander (maneuver) of the 1st Infantry Division from 1994 to 1996.

Before serving as the deputy commander of Special Operations Command, Brown was the commanding general Joint Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg.

His awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star Medal, Air Medal with “V” Device, Joint Service Commendation Medal and the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. He also earned the Special Forces Tab, Master Army Aviator Badge, Military Free Fall Parachutist Badge and the Air Assault Badge.

There are nine unified commanders. They normally serve two-year tours with a year extension, according to Joint Staff officials. Holland is the second unified commander to move this summer. Army Gen. Tommy Franks, U.S. Central Command chief, will retire on Aug. 1, and the president nominated Army Lt. Gen. John Abizaid, currently deputy CENTCOM commander, to replace him.

## Senators, representatives get Stryker update continued

a lot of experience with and they were operating at night with zero illumination in difficult terrain,” Brandenburg said. “Thankfully there were no injuries beyond a few bruises. We’ve done some additional driver’s training, made commanders aware of the problem and have not had an incident since.”

A second SBCT – 1st Brigade, 25th ID – is standing up at Fort Lewis and has received most of its vehicles. It is scheduled to undergo an IOC evaluation next May.

The Army plans to convert a total of six light infantry brigades into SBCTs — including one in the National Guard.

Until Congress receives and approves an SBCT Operational Capability evaluation, the Army is limited to procuring no more than three SBCTs.

Air Force Gen. John W. Handy, the head of U.S. Transportation Command is the longest-serving unified commander. He took command July 1, 2000.

Adm. James O. Ellis Jr. has been commander of U.S. Strategic Command since December 2001.

U.S. Pacific Command chief Adm. Thomas B. Fargo took over command in May 2002 and Army Gen. James T. Hill became commander of U.S. Southern Command in August 2002.

Air Force Gen. Ralph Eberhart stood up U.S. Northern Command on Oct. 1, 2002, and Adm. Edmund Giambastiani became commander of U.S. Joint Forces Command on Oct. 2, 2002.

Marine Gen. James Jones took over U.S. European Command in January 2003.

## **Wolfowitz explains Pentagon strategy changes continued**

Dating to the summer of 2001, as the Pentagon was preparing input for the 2002 Quadrennial Defense Review, Wolfowitz said that both DoD military and civilian leaders had already formulated a “new strategic direction” for the department.

“We agreed, both military and civilians, that there was need for some significant changes in U.S. defense strategy to take account of both the changing threat and the changing nature of our capabilities.”

However, he said, “our own asymmetric advantages were enormous and growing, and the increased importance of knowledge, precision, speed, lethality and surprise in the conduct of 21st century military operations gave us potential for large asymmetric advantages over our enemies.”

Wolfowitz told the House committee that in developing the “new direction” for the department, the Pentagon leaders looked at certain risks, as outlined in the Defense Department’s Annual Report to the President and the Congress.

“We needed to look at risks in more than just the conventional way of the risk of a war if one takes place. That was one dimension of risk,” he said. “But after a lot of discussion, we concluded that we needed to be judging the defense program based on how it addressed four categories of risk,” he explained.

Those risk categories include:

—Force management risks — investing in people and readiness, which he said deals with “how we sustain our people and our infrastructure.”

—Operational risks — sizing and selectively modernizing forces for an era of uncertainty, the “classical warfighting risk,” he said.

— Future-challenges risk or transforming the force— those risks associated with investments or underinvestment in providing the capabilities that our military will need in the future, he said.

—Institutional risks, which call for better effectiveness through accountability and efficiency, “the risks that come from having inefficient processes and inefficient use of resources,” he added.

“What we concluded was that it is very important as we develop our defense program to carefully balance among those four risks, and not simply ‘sub-optimize’ against a single one at the expense of serious risks in another area,” he said.

Wolfowitz said to confront this world where we had to expect even greater surprise than historically, and more uncertainty, the Pentagon shifted its planning from the “threat-driven model” which guided its planning throughout most of the Cold War to a “capabilities-based approach.”

“In effect, what we said was that while it is very difficult to predict who might attack us or when and where they might do so, we could hope much better to identify the asymmetric capabilities that they

might bring against us, and the asymmetric advantages that we could have in defeating them,” he said.

In addition, he said the Pentagon shifted from a “force- planning construct” that had been focused for the 10 years after the Cold War in dealing with two major regional contingencies in two specific regions — the Persian Gulf and Korea.

Wolfowitz said that the new force-planning construct, that was detailed in the 2002 QDR report, guides the shaping and sizing of U.S. forces: “first to defend the United States; second, to deter aggression and coercion from a forward posture in critical regions; third, to be able to swiftly defeat aggression in two overlapping major conflicts,” he said.

He added the planning also allows for the president to conduct a limited number of small-scale contingency operations.

“In changing from the two-major-theater-war approach, we do not go to a one-war, or a one-and-a-half war, or a strategy of win-hold-win. What we proposed is something entirely different,” he told the committee.

Wolfowitz said the department’s new approach” shifts the focus of planning from conflicts in Korea and the Persian Gulf, to building a portfolio of capabilities that can deal with the “full spectrum of possible force requirements.”

He said the new approach would still enable the United States to prevail in two overlapping conflicts, but the emphasis is on “speed and delivering early combat power” to over-match the enemy.

“We do not want our forces in warfighting theaters to have to wait until reinforcements arrive to blunt an enemy’s attack,” Wolfowitz noted. He added, “We want our forces to have the capability to defeat attacks early and immediately.”

In applying the defense strategy, Wolfowitz told the committee, “We’re trying to align all of our activities and programs with that new strategy. And in an operation as large as ours, doing that alignment is not something that happens easily or quickly,” he said.

He said the Pentagon plans to “stick with the force structure” that it initially planned in the summer of 2001, but “only after careful examination of proposals both to increase it and to reduce it.”

“Indeed, after much analysis in the summer of 2001, we concluded that it would be a mistake to reduce our force structure,” he said. “We were initially criticized in that decision for being too conservative, but we felt very strongly on Sept. 12th that the events of the day before had already vindicated our conclusion. I think everything we’ve seen in the year-and-a-half since then reinforces that conclusion,” he added.

But the military’s end-strength was only one challenge in the new defense strategy that Wolfowitz brought before the committee.

# Babenhausen soldiers' tally: Two months, 18 million pounds of munitions recovered

by Sandra Jontz, Stars and Stripes

BAGHDAD, Iraq — It's been months since U.S. missiles stopped falling on Baghdad, but field artillery soldiers who arrived in Iraq before the shooting started still aren't going home.

They have another mission ahead of them.

Soldiers from the 41st Field Artillery Brigade from Babenhausen, Germany, are part of Task Force Bullet, an effort to clear weapons and ammunition from a smattering of public places in Baghdad.

In two months, the Babenhausen soldiers have collected 18 million pounds worth, pulling them from houses, mosques, churches and schools, said brigade commander Col. Chuck Otterstedt III.

"This is definitely a nonstandard mission," Otterstedt said.

There are two field artillery groups operating in the country, the 41st and the 17th Field Artillery Brigade out of Fort Sill, Ga.

"We're going into public places and trying to get [ordnance]," said Maj. Michael Gabel, the 1st Battalion's operations officer.

"It's a public safety issue, and we've probably saved a hell of a lot of lives."

The soldiers have found it all, from small arms ammunition to SA-2 and SA-7 surface-to-air missiles.



*Pfc. Bryan Kirkland of the 41st Field Artillery Brigade shoulders two Iraqi artillery shell propellant bags at Red Rocket. Photo by Michael Abrams, Stars and Stripes.*

But there have been no signs of the elusive weapons of mass destruction that President Bush used as a reason for committing U.S. troops to the war.

"We've seen a lot of things that I've never seen before, but no WMD," said Spc. Ayofemi Terrence, 20, an ammunition specialist with 608th Ordnance Company out of Fort Benning, Ga.

"You'd think we would have come across some, and we've been looking for some time. I'm not quite sure we're going to find them."

"We're out doing something good here," said Pfc. Josh Rogers, 25, adding he was "kind of shocked" to learn of the change in mission. "We have no training for this at all."

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## Wolfowitz explains Pentagon strategy changes continued

Another challenge before the Pentagon is how best to reshape the force, realign its posture, and manage the force, he said.

"The forces that we have need to be modernized and transformed," he said, adding that the military has made "great strides" during recent military operations. However he said, "there is much more to do."

What the military must do to transform its force is capitalize on force attributes such as knowledge, speed, precision and lethality, Wolfowitz said. He said those attributes were used during military operations in Iraq and are "key to 21st century combat success."

During operations in Iraq, he said use of small special operations units and of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance improved these forces' "knowledge of the location and disposition of enemy forces."

He said speed in battle was demonstrated when U.S. forces arrived in the Iraq theater in less than half the time they did during 1991's Operation Desert Storm.

Also, he noted the "increases in precision-dropped munitions" and

the importance of precision that "comes from precise targeting."

"We saw in Afghanistan, we saw in Iraq, something that's been made possible by the networking that we have introduced into our forces, with new information technology that allows brave soldiers on the ground to call in precise targets that airplanes can't see, but that they can hit with incredible lethality," he told the committee.

Wolfowitz said the precise targeting of munitions, coupled close-air support for ground forces produced a lethal effect that "defeated the Iraqi forces across the depth of the battle space," he said.

"In combination, those advances enabled a force about one-half the size to achieve in about one-half the time, using about one-seventh the munitions, a far more ambitious objective even than what we achieved in Desert Storm," he said.

Wolfowitz told the committee that the Defense Department is currently aligning all "our activities and programs with that new strategy." He added, however, that in an operation as large as Defense Department, that alignment is not something that happens "easily or quickly."



## **Babenhausen soldiers' tally: Two months, 18 million pounds of munitions recovered continued**

But the soldiers are learning quickly and have tackled the job with a zeal he's not seen before, said battalion commander Lt. Col. Jeff Lieb, 41, who pitched in to lift 120-pound boxes of munitions — leading by example.

The soldiers have learned the proper way to stack rocket propelled grenades and to stay away from ammunition labeled with a black band, indicating the presence of highly explosive white phosphorous.

"Make no mistake about it, this is a dangerous mission," Lieb said.

The captured ammunition and weaponry are taken to two locations: a quarry named Red Rocket, which, by convoy, is about 90 minutes north of Baghdad, where it is destroyed; or a former Iraqi military base in Taji, where it is stored to be turned over to the follow-up Iraqi army. About 30 percent of what is found and recovered can be saved.



*The soldiers of the 41st Field Artillery Brigade unload Iraqi munitions at Red Rocket, a quarry northwest of Baghdad. The munitions are kept there until they are destroyed. Photo by Michael Abrams, Stars andStripes.*

The soldiers of the 41st temporarily make their home in a desolate camp named Dogwood, about an hour's drive southwest of Baghdad. There are no trees, no picturesque views, just bland-colored sand, a talc-fine powder the wind whips up and deposits in ears, tear ducts, mouths. There's no running water; electricity comes from the noisy generators that pepper the compound.

But they are a creative and resourceful bunch: They jury-rigged a pump — normally used to spray down and decontaminate vehicles of chemical and biological agents — to a water buffalo that pumps water to a tank where water is heated by the sun and then flows to three faucets in three plywood boxes. Voilà: showers.

Hubcaps, iron plates and the like have been welded to steel bars for weights the soldiers lift during their free time.

The soldiers are almost done with their search and disposal mission.

"We're days away from being complete in removing enemy ammunition out of Baghdad," Gabel said. "We're coming to the end of the show here."

And yet, they still aren't going home. Instead, they are moving west, Otterstedt said.

"I do what I'm told to do, and I'm used to changes. It's no big deal," said Pfc. Tommy Martinsen, 28, a surveyor.

Some are teaching local civilians the skills they picked up, to



*Spc. Mitch Kruse, left, waits for Pfc. Anthony Pledger to hand him a mortar shell as the two 41st Field Artillery Brigade soldiers load up Iraqi munitions at Camp Abel. Photo by Michael Abrams, Stars andStripes.*

eventually transfer duties to civilian contractors. They want to pass on their knowledge, but they also have an ulterior motive.

"The sooner they learn to handle these," said Sgt. Ferdinand Berrios, 26, "the sooner we get to go home."



*Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Trucks, or HEMTTs, of the Babenhausen-based 41st Field Artillery Brigade convoy out of Baghdad on their way to Red Rocket, a quarry where Iraqi munitions are held before being destroyed. Photo by Michael Abrams, Stars andStripes.*

STARS AND STRIPES.

## Taliban names anti-U.S. leadership council

SPIN BOLDACK, Afghanistan (Reuters) - The shadowy leader of Afghanistan's former Taliban regime, Mullah Omar, has named a 10-man leadership council to organize resistance against foreign troops in the country, a news report said on Tuesday.

Pakistani newspaper, The News, quoted a Taliban spokesman as saying Mullah Omar announced the formation of the body in an audio tape sent from his hiding place in Afghanistan.

The whereabouts of Mullah Omar and al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, who is blamed for masterminding the September 11, 2001, attacks on New York and Washington, remain unknown despite more than a year and a half of U.S.-led operations in Afghanistan.

There are about 11,500 foreign troops under U.S. command hunting Taliban and al Qaeda remnants in Afghanistan.

In the tape, Mullah Omar called on the Taliban to make sacrifices to drive out U.S. and other foreign troops and the "puppet" government of U.S.-backed President Hamid Karzai, the paper quoted Mohammed Mukhtar Mujahid as saying.

The paper said members of the Rahbari Shura, or leadership council, were mostly Taliban military commanders and most were from the southwest of the country.

The paper said the council included former defense minister Mullah

Obaidullah and military commanders, including the one-legged Mullah Dadullah and Akhtar Mohammad Usmani.

Mullah Abdul Rauf, a provincial governor in the Taliban regime ousted from power by a U.S.-led coalition in late 2001, told Reuters the council was formed after five days of talks that ended Monday between senior Taliban officials at an undisclosed location in southern Afghanistan.

"The Shura was formed to expedite jihad (holy war) against occupation forces and strengthen the Taliban movement," he said.

Mullah Abdul Samad, a Taliban intelligence official, said the council had already begun its work.

"Now jihad will be waged against the U.S. and allied forces under a new military strategy," he said, but gave no details.

Saturday, U.S. forces launched an air assault in the southeast to prepare for a deployment of troops on the border with Pakistan to stop Taliban and al Qaeda fighters crossing and carrying out attacks.

Afghan and U.S. officials have blamed a spate of attacks in Afghanistan this year on "terrorists" crossing from Pakistan.

Afghan officials have said they believe Taliban leaders like Mullah Omar and Usmani have been taking refuge in Pakistan and have called on Islamabad to act against them.



*A destroyed car lies among the debris at al-Hamra compound on Thursday, May 15, 2003, one of the three compounds that was attacked in the May 12 terrorist strikes in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Saudi security forces unraveling an alleged plot to attack the holiest city in the Islamic world say many of the suspects were teenagers – one as young as 15, whose boyish features and hairless cheeks may have helped mask a violent assignment. The suspected Mecca plot uncovered earlier this month, coupled with May 12 suicide bombings in Riyadh that killed 35 people, kick-started Saudi efforts to crack down on militant groups here. (AP Photo/Hasan Jamali)*



*A US trooper gets ready with his rifle as his convoy is caught in a traffic jam in Baghdad, Iraq on Tuesday June 24, 2003. US forces continue to be the target of guerrilla-style attacks despite a new crackdown. (AP Photo/Samir Mezban)*

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## *Lifesaving product of the war*

**Bandages that stop bleeding instantly may have saved the lives of soldiers wounded in Iraq. Now they're making their way to your home medicine chest.**

by Melissa Healy, Los Angeles Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON —One of the Iraq war's most dramatic lifesaving technologies is expected to make its civilian debut this fall, when it becomes available for household use, according to the company that makes it.

QuikClot is a granular powder, a refined mineral called zeolite that looks like cat litter and has many industrial uses. But when poured onto a grievous, bleeding wound, QuikClot staunches blood loss almost instantaneously. It is one of a group of new "hemostatic agents" that are on the market or in development. Two of them were sent into battle. The small bag of clotting agent was carried in every Marine rucksack and appeared to spell the difference between life and death for 19 soldiers wounded in Iraq, according to Defense Department medical officials, who helped speed Food and Drug Administration clearance for QuikClot in May 2002. In the process, the new product — along with other innovations in military trauma care — significantly boosted survival rates among those wounded in the Iraq war.

In one case, a Marine was shot through the neck. The bullet nicked his carotid artery before exiting from the back of his skull. As the Marine bled profusely, QuikClot was poured onto his wound, sealing it immediately. He made it alive to a field hospital and later to a Navy hospital ship — a casualty that probably would have been a fatality in the Persian Gulf war.

Now, however, Z-Medica, the small Connecticut company that makes QuikClot, has its eye on saving those wounded in civilian life: in automobile wrecks, shootouts, airline disasters and household

accidents. Late this summer, the company said, it expects to begin selling QuikClot through U.S. retail stores with no prescription required. Its sales pitch: Having the product handy could help a person with no medical or emergency training stop the massive bleeding that causes some 50,000 deaths a year, mostly the result of traffic accidents.



The military-issue "trauma pack" carries a price tag of about \$22; the smaller version for household use will sell for less than \$10.

### **Enhancing self-reliance**

At a time when terrorist attacks have blurred the line between combatants and bystanders, experts say the growing number and availability of hemostatic agents such as QuikClot and HemCon — another military clotting product that draws blood into tiny vessels and effectively plugs a gaping wound — could make almost anyone with a well-equipped first aid kit an emergency first responder.

"Issues of self-reliance have become very important in the context of homeland defense," said Bart Gullong, executive vice president of Z-Medica, which makes and markets QuikClot, its sole product. In disasters and public health emergencies, Americans want to be

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*Soldiers inspect an old Iraqi MiG fighter in Habaniyah on Saturday. The day before, they spotted looters trying to tow the Soviet-made jet fighter away. Photo by John Moore, AP.*



## **Bandages that stop bleeding instantly may have saved the lives of soldiers wounded in Iraq. Now they're making their way to your home medicine chest continued**

able to help themselves and their families, he said, and the company's plans fit in with that.

But these wonder products are not without risks. Because of the speed with which it draws water into itself, QuikClot can generate enough heat to burn tissue if too much is used.

According to a study to be published next month in the Journal of Trauma, researchers with the Uniformed Armed Services Health Services found that, compared with two other clot-boosting bandages and traditional wound dressing, QuikClot performed best overall. But the product HemCon, which the Army favors, is believed to stem blood loss better in certain smaller injuries. It may have to be removed more quickly than other hemostatic bandages, however, and is several times more expensive than QuikClot.

Fibrin, another clotting agent under joint development by the Army and the American Red Cross, is derived from human blood and could cost \$2,000 per application.

"I don't like it, but when you ask me one of the best ways to stop bleeding, it's QuikClot," said Dr. Peter Rhee, a trauma surgeon at Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center, who has used the newest hemostatic agent extensively in the last year.

"It does stop bleeding, and it does save lives. In trained hands, it does work well," said Rhee, who also directs the Navy's Trauma Training Center at County-USC.

Rhee is concerned that QuikClot could be risky if used by consumers with a poor knowledge of the product and of traumatic injury. He has higher hopes for other coagulant bandages making their way onto the market.

Dr. Hasan Alam, a trauma surgeon at Washington (D.C.) Hospital Center who participated in the testing of QuikClot, said the product should be put in a form different from the 3.5-ounce packets provided to Marines.

"If you start selling it in Wal-Mart, you have to come up with a strategy to prevent its misuse," Alam said. Given the risks of burns, pouring the substance onto skinned knees and shaving cuts is "like using a sledgehammer to kill a fly."

Z-Medica is exploring whether QuikClot may someday be used to stem bleeding in surgery (an internal use that probably would require extensive additional testing for FDA approval), or for the management of unusual bleeding among hemophiliacs, diabetics and those taking blood thinning medication, company executives say.

Rhee provided a dramatic preview of QuikClot's possibilities in emergency surgery at County-USC last winter. A patient with multiple gunshot wounds to the chest was bleeding everywhere. In spite of frantic efforts, the bleeding continued unchecked.

With the man's life ebbing away, a colleague urged Rhee to try using QuikClot internally — an "off-label," or unapproved, use considered acceptable in cases when no viable alternative is available to save a patient. He did, and the bleeding stopped.

"It was absolutely the last thing" available, Rhee said. "I had actually made my decision to let him die. This guy walked out of the hospital a week later."

### **A longer 'golden hour'**

On the battlefield as well as closer to home, uncontrolled bleeding kills many in the first hour following an injury. For others, massive blood loss can cause shock, which can cause complications and death later, even for patients who make it quickly to a hospital.

When emergency medical technicians, fire and police units and even ordinary citizens can apply dressings that staunch bleeding well before a victim arrives at the hospital, doctors such as Terry Soldo, a Navy "Devil Doc" who served in Iraq and saw QuikClot used twice, are certain that more lives can be saved.

"They talk about the 'golden hour' — in which EMTs and doctors can keep a bleeding injury victim from dying, Soldo said. "If you could control hemorrhage earlier, the 'golden hour' can last longer. If they can control that, in my opinion, it would make a huge difference."

Francis X. Hursey, who developed QuikClot, discovered the properties of zeolite, a granular volcanic material, when he was developing gas-separation and -purification equipment for medical and industrial uses. One day more than a decade ago, he sliced himself shaving and decided to apply a bit of the water-absorbing zeolite to the cut.

By sucking up the water from the exposed blood, the material concentrated the blood's remaining coagulants. To Hursey's astonishment, his shaving nick sealed itself in seconds.

Other "hemostats" seek to achieve the same effect with different materials and in different ways. Although some add coagulants at the wound site, others constrict bleeding arteries near the wound and activate platelets to speed healing.

QuikClot and Emergency Medical Products' TraumaDex, one of the early entrants into this field, work on the "aquasponge" principle. HemCon and Marine Polymer Technologies' RDH bandage effectively plug a wound. All but QuikClot are made of a sugar-related substance called chitosan that comes from shrimp shells, seaweed and algae.

Doctors say each has an area of strength. The RDH bandage, for

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# Bush says al Qaeda leaders are 'dismantled'

CAMP DAVID, Md. (Reuters) - President Bush said on Tuesday al Qaeda's leadership had been dismantled but it could take years to finish the job of crushing militant networks.

"We dismantled the chief operators of al Qaeda," Bush told a joint news conference with Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf.

"Slowly but surely we're dismantling the networks," Bush said. "It could take a day, or it could take a month, it could take years."

Washington blames Osama bin Laden's militant al Qaeda network for several attacks on U.S. targets, including the Sept. 11, 2001 destruction of the World Trade Center in New York. Reports linked al Qaeda to suicide bombings in Saudi Arabia last month.

Musharraf told the news conference bin Laden may be moving between Afghanistan and Pakistan in a "treacherous" border area. "The possibility of his (bin Laden's) maybe shifting sides on the border is very much there," he said.

He expressed confidence that Pakistan's military, operating for the first time in more than a century in tribal areas near the border, would find any al Qaeda leaders hiding there.



*President Bush and Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf shake hands following their joint news conference at the presidential retreat, Camp David, in Maryland, Tuesday, June 24, 2003. On the agenda for the two leaders is Pakistan's support for the international war on terrorism. (AP Photo/Susan Walsh)*

Bush said the capture of top bin Laden aides had weakened the group's effectiveness. "If Osama bin Laden is alive ... the people reporting to him, the chief operators ... are no longer a threat to the United States, or Pakistan for that matter," he said.



## **Bandages that stop bleeding instantly may have saved the lives of soldiers wounded in Iraq. Now they're making their way to your home medicine chest continued**

instance, has shown particular promise for in stemming bleeding from liver lacerations but may be less effective in larger, gaping wounds. The TraumaDex bandage is absorbed by the body; unlike HemCon and QuikClot, it doesn't have to be removed by a doctor before repairs can be made.

QuikClot currently is distributed to police departments, fire and rescue squads, and hikers and hunters who venture far from emergency health care. Starting in September, Z-Medica plans to sell it over the counter in pharmacies, convenience stores and supermarkets.

Z-Medica executives believe that in addition to its still-preliminary record of effectiveness on the battlefield, their product has two things in its favor for consumer use: low price and ease of use. The packet, which was carried into combat by more than 50,000 U.S. troops, can be applied by the wounded soldier himself — if necessary, held in one hand and torn open with the mouth. Pressure must be applied to the wound before and after the application. During the

Iraq conflict, the QuikClot packets were so coveted by British soldiers that they offered to trade bottles of Scotch and war trophies to secure them from American GIs.

### **Battlefield lives**

HemCon Inc., a Portland, Ore., company that received FDA approval for its bandages in November 2002, is working on new versions for the Army and for testing by the Marines, said Dr. William Weismann, the company's founder.

Military planners long have recognized that slowing blood loss on the battlefield and during evacuation is their best chance of reducing fatalities. Shortening the time to a field hospital can help, and U.S. forces accomplished that in Iraq by dispatching medical teams and rapidly movable treatment facilities to areas closer than ever to the front lines. But if blood loss also could be stemmed, according to Pentagon estimates, 1 in 5 men and women who might otherwise die in war could go home to their families.

# Abrams tank showed 'vulnerability' in Iraq

by Tim Ripley, Jane's Defence Weekly Correspondent, London

The US Army's M1 Abrams main battle tank (MBT) top side, and rear armour "remains susceptible to penetration" and needs improving, according to the Tank and Automotive Command's (TACOM) Abrams programme manager office (PMAbrams).

In a report into the US Army's principal MBT's performance during Operation 'Iraqi Freedom', however, PM Abrams said the tank's frontal turret and hull armour continues to provide excellent crew protection.

"The tank performed extremely well providing excellent manoeuvre, firepower and overall crew protection", concluded the report, which has been seen by Jane's Defence Weekly. "Engines typically outlived expectancies and transmissions proved to be durable."

PM Abrams personnel deployed forward to Kuwait and Iraq with US Army divisions during the war and collected first-hand feedback from tank crews to compile the report. There were "no catastrophic losses due to Iraqi direct or indirect fire weapons," according to the report, but several tanks were destroyed due to secondary effects attributed to Iraqi weapon systems. TACOM officials did not comment on the report, but US Army sources told JDW that the report was only "preliminary observations" rather than a definitive study and more work was continuing to further refine the exact causes of US tank losses in Iraq. Other US Army sources report that 14 Abrams tanks were damaged and two destroyed during the war.

Most M1 losses were attributed in the report to mechanical breakdown, or vehicles being stripped for parts or vandalised by Iraqis. There were "no reported cases" of an anti-tank guided missile being fired at any US Army vehicle. In spite of speculation during the war, no Kornet missiles were found in Iraq, says the report.

Details of the M1 losses were given, including one where 25mm armour-piercing depleted uranium (AP-DU) rounds from an unidentified weapon, most likely a 25mm cannon from a US Army Bradley Fighting Vehicle, disabled a US tank near Najaf after penetrating the engine compartment. Another Abrams was disabled near Karbala after a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) penetrated the rear engine compartment and one was lost in Baghdad after its external auxiliary power unit was set on fire by medium-calibre fire.

Stowage of equipment on turrets needs to be improved, according to the report, to prevent the loss of expensive crew equipment stored outside the tank's armour.

A fourth was ordered to be destroyed after an engine fire in Baghdad because of concerns about "vehicle/technology compromise". A

first attempt to explode a thermite grenade inside the tank failed. It then required a US tank firing a sabot round into the engine and two hits by Maverick missiles fired from US aircraft to destroy the tank.

Left and right side non-ballistic skirts were repeatedly penetrated by anti-armour RPG fire, according to the report, but only cosmetic damage was caused when they were struck by anti-personnel RPG rounds. There were no reported hits on ballistic skirts and no reported instance of US tanks hitting an anti-tank mine. Turret ammunition blast doors worked as designed, according to the report. In one documented instance where a turret-ready ammunition rack compartment was hit and main gun rounds ignited, the blast doors contained the explosion and crew survived unharmed except for fume inhalation.



Crew protective equipment worked well, says the report. The JLIST (Joint service Lightweight Integrated nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) protective Suit Technology) suits are much better than the old NBC suits and the Combat Vehicle Crewman's helmets proved able to stop 7.62mm rounds.

Overall, very little 120mm sabot ammunition was used, but when it was the results were "devastating". "High-explosive anti-tank and multipurpose anti-tank ended up being the preferred main gun round effective against buildings and bunkers".

US tanks crews reported that their turret machine guns were weapons of choice in numerous engagements, in what was described as a "target-rich environment". The

Iraqis hid in fighting positions until tanks were very near before attacking, negating the use of the M1's main gun, according to the report.

The Abrams first-generation forward-looking infra-red (FLIR) again accomplished the mission but a second-generation FLIR is needed to match capabilities of main gun fire-control system ranges, says the report.

Rate of movement and covering vast distances in a short period of time caused units to use more fuel than projected, which ended up taxing the logistics system.

M1 units that deployed with 'healthy' amounts of spare parts fared best in the campaign, according to the report, because the pace of the US Army advance did not facilitate pushing spare parts forward until Baghdad was secured. In some instances, critical end items were airlifted forward when weather permitted.

If units did not have a required part on hand, then the vehicle was stripped of all usable components and left where it sat, says the report. Wartime spares carried with frontline units needs to be improved, says the report.



by Rudi Williams, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, June 23, 2003 –A photograph of a patrol of stainless steel statues trudging through snow toward an objective is featured on the new commemorative postage stamp honoring the Korean War Veterans Memorial that's slated to be dedicated by the U.S. Postal Service on July 27.

The 37-cent stamp also honors the 50th anniversary of the armistice that ended hostilities during the Korean War.

The stamp's official first day of issue ceremony will take place at the Korean War Veterans Memorial on Washington's National Mall.

The statuary troop patrol consists of 14 soldiers, one sailor, one airman and three Marines. The 7-foot-tall figures represent racial and ethnic cross sections of America – whites, African-Americans, Asians, American Indians and Hispanics.

One Marine carries an ammunition case about the size of a lunch box and a tripod on his shoulder.

The airman, wearing a fur hat, is the only one not wearing a helmet. There's also a statue of an African-American Army medic and a South Korean soldier fighting with the American unit.



Previous U.S. stamps have recognized the bravery of Korean War veterans and the significance of the Korean War in U.S. and world history. In 1985, the Postal Service issued the 22-cent "Veterans Korea"

stamp. "The Korean War," a 33-cent stamp, was issued as part of the 1950s, and the "Celebrate the Century" stamp pane in 1999.

Congress authorized the building of the Korean War Veterans Memorial in 1986 and it was dedicated on July 27, 1995.

Shown marching in a wedge formation as if on patrol, the statues represent troops walking grimly through a triangular field of juniper bushes and marble barriers that symbolize the rough terrain in Korea. Their objective, at the apex of the triangular "field of service," is symbolized by a masted American flag. The figures are clad in wind-blown ponchos to recall the harsh weather troops endured during the three-year war – 1950 to 1953.

The 19 statues reflect off a shiny, 164-foot-long black granite wall. A

## Postal Service to issue stamp honoring Korean War Memorial, Armistice



are still alive.

The reflective quality of the granite creates the illusion of 38 statues, symbolic of the 38th Parallel and the 38 months of the war. When viewed from afar, it also creates the appearance of the mountain ranges of Korea.

The third element of the Korean War Veterans Memorial, an area of remembrance, consists of a circular reflecting pool at the apex surrounded by a grove of 40 Linden trees. "Freedom Is Not Free" is engraved on the segment of the wall that extends into the pool area.

The memorial recognizes the contributions of more than 1.5 million Americans who served in Korea during the war. It also acknowledges the United Nations member countries that assisted South Korea in the conflict.

The Pool of Remembrance bears the inscription: "Our nation honors her sons and daughters who answered the call to defend a country they never knew and a people they never met."

The Korean War began on June 25, 1950, when North Korean communist troops invaded South Korea. The U.S. and 21 other nations rallied to the defense of South Korea with military personnel, medical support and supplies. More than 34,000 Americans had been killed and another 103,000 wounded when an armistice was signed on July 27, 1953.

More than 3,000 soldiers from other United Nations countries were killed and 16,000 were wounded. South Korean casualties vary greatly, with estimates ranging from 50,000 to more than 400,000 dead and hundreds of thousands wounded. Millions of civilians are thought to have been killed or wounded.

John W. Alli of Catonsville, Md, took the photograph on the stamp just before a snowstorm in January 1996. Alli, who served two tours of duty in the Persian Gulf as a Marine Corps second lieutenant, is now a commercial airline pilot and a lieutenant colonel aviator in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve.

computer-controlled sandblaster etched the wall's 41 panels, creating a mural of more than 2,500 images of U.S. personnel who supported combat troops. The etchings represent Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard personnel. Equipment etchings include everything from rocket launchers, vehicles and tankers, to hospital units, to chaplains of all denominations and switchboard and radio operators.

Faces etched into the wall came from photographs in the National Archives and the National Air and Space Museum. Some of the people whose images were used



*In this picture made available by the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF), Palestinians wait to be identified by Israeli troops conducting an overnight operation in the West Bank town of Hebron early Tuesday June 24, 2003. Israeli forces swept through the city and arrested more than 130 Palestinians, during a roundup focused on the city's Hamas network, the army said. The arrests came just days after Israeli troops shot and killed Hebron's Hamas leader Abdullah Kawasme. (AP Photo/IDF/HO)*



*A French soldier on a reconnaissance patrol stands next to a child soldier outside Bunia in the northeast of the Democratic Republic of Congo Monday June 23, 2003. The French troops head an international force mandated by the U.N. Security Council on May 30 in a bid to stem tribal fighting that has killed more than 500 people in and around Bunia since the beginning of May. The force, which will have up to 1,500 troops, is to be deployed in the town until Sept. 1. (AP Photo/Zohra Bensemra/POOL)*



*Iraqi residents retrieve parts of a rocket propelled grenade which exploded prematurely across the Tigris River from the US Administration office in Baghdad, Iraq Tuesday June 24, 2003. No one was reportedly injured but the explosion occurred at a time when US forces continue to be the target of guerrilla-style attacks despite an intense new crackdown. (AP Photo/Ali Haider)*



*A special coast guard officer stands next to the Comoros-flagged Baltic Sky cargo ship at the port of Platyali, Greece, 235 kilometers (145 miles) northwest of Athens on Monday, June 23, 2003. The vessel, carrying 680 metric tons (750 U.S. tons) of explosives material, was boarded by special police forces and was forced to the port for inspection. (AP Photo/Petros Giannakouris)*

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